could be prepared in two weeks. I thought that Emma and I could do it if we had access to all the files of the Department of Foreign Affairs and sufficient clerical help and no delay in the printing.

I worked on the files, reading, sorting, and grouping the documents. Emma supervised the processing of the material and the printing. We went over several thousand documents and selected 261. Not a single item of importance was withheld because of its secret character, and not a single word was changed or deleted in the records. Arranged in fourteen chapters, the documents gave a graphic picture of the road Georgia had traveled since the November coup in Petrograd. The book, of more than five hundred printed pages, was in Chkheidze's hands ten days after the project was launched. An expert eye would discern the difference in the types used by the three printing houses that set the text, but, apart from this and a few typographical errors, our *Documents and Materials on the Foreign Policy of Transcaucasia and Georgia* was a respectable job. It was a major influence on Jordania's decision that we should go abroad with the delegation.

Chkheidze and Tseretelli left for Paris early in February, 1919. The rest of the delegation was delayed a few days by visa formalities and got only as far as Constantinople (Istanbul), where the Inter-Allied Police decided that we would not be welcome at the Peace Conference. Days grew into weeks, weeks into months. Emma and I were ready to return to Tiflis, but Chkheidze asked us to wait while he tried to get visas for us directly from the French government.

We spent our time studying economic conditions in postwar Europe and preparing a book on Georgia, which was later published in Italian and French. Our observations of new economic trends resulted in a series of articles in *Bor'ba* and a practical suggestion to our friends in the Tiflis government—to cultivate economic relations with Italy in preference to Great Britain and France. We thought that Italy, because of her scarcity of raw materials and lack of colonies, would deal with Georgia as a partner rather than treat her as a vassal.

After four months of red tape, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris informed the Constantinople authorities that we could not enter France. We returned to Batum in July, 1919, aboard a British destroyer. Jordania and other Georgian friends thought that our trip abroad had not been futile; it had produced the "Italian project."

In our absence the situation in Georgia had worsened. The republic's finances were in poor shape. Taxes were not collected, the government relying mainly on the printing press. Georgian bonds were losing value. In addition, Georgia was practically blockaded. It had no fleet to export its manganese, and Batum, now restored to Georgia, was a dead city. There was no mass unemployment among Georgian workers, but Tiflis was full of refugees from Russia with no means of